

June 1, 2019

Ms. Maria Salinas
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
350 South Bixel Street
Los Angeles, California 90017

msalinas@lachamber.com

Via USPS and email

Dear Ms. Salinas:

The L.A. Compact was established to unite key stakeholders to improve our local schools. A key component of the Compact is to increase funding for public education.

If approved on the June 4, 2019 special election ballot, Measure EE would deliver desperately-needed funds to reduce class sizes and add teachers, nurses, librarians, counselors and support staff to our local schools. This would help the nearly 700,000 students enrolled in our public schools have a better education and a better chance to participate in building a stronger economy and future for our region.

The status quo is stark: While California is the fifth-largest economy in the world, we rank 44th among the 50 states in per pupil funding for education. English and math classes are stuffed with more than 45 students, representing some of the largest class sizes in the nation. Nurses are available once a week. The student-to-counselor ratio is 500 to one, which means young people experiencing trauma may never see a psychological professional, in some cases until it is too late.

A lack of custodial and maintenance staff leaves classrooms uncleaned and bathrooms out of order. The average income of those custodians and support staff is \$25,000 year. Many of those same workers are parents of LAUSD students. As you know, 90% of the students enrolled in LAUSD are people of color and 80% are on reduced or free meal programs, meaning that often their only hot meal comes at school.

Recently, the District and its labor partners achieved savings of \$100 million annually through reductions in health care costs and central office staff. However, LAUSD cannot provide a quality education with cuts alone: the need for more school funding remains.

Yet, the Chamber of Commerce has led the campaign to oppose EE, rejecting a key objective of the Compact. In doing so, the Chamber has made clear that it is not a reliable partner to our schools.

Therefore, we hereby withdraw from, and effectively dissolve, the L.A. Compact. After the election, we will continue our work bringing together political, labor, philanthropic, community and business leaders who have demonstrated a concerted interest in our schools to build our future together.

Cordially,



Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles



Monica Garcia
President, LAUSD Board



Austin Beutner
Superintendent of Schools, LAUSD



Alex Caputo-Pearl
President, United Teachers Los Angeles



Rusty Hicks
President, LA Federation of Labor



Juan A. Flecha
President, Associated Administrators of
Los Angeles

Copy to: David Rattray